

hand are short, dry and cracked. Scars of the former troubles. Faradic reactions normal. Patient otherwise healthy. At his earnest wish the arm was amputated a little below the middle of the humeral portion. Primary union. Man discharged in 13 days.

The joint surfaces of the elbow were largely denuded of cartilage. The three main nerve trunks of the arm were much thickened, the median being of more than double size. A microscopical examination of these was made by Prof. Nauwerck who found a chronic neuritis with atrophy of the nervous elements. The atrophy of the median was not excessive where most affected, not over a quarter to a third of the nerve-fibers being lost. Endoneurium, perineurium and vessels variably thickened and sclerotic. On the ulnar and radial a neuritis characterized by infiltration and proliferation, the atrophy being slight. Clinically and histologically, then, this was a case of limited neuritis. The various known causes are gone over, but as none was found here the case is put down as spontaneous. This neuritis was without doubt the cause of the trophic disturbance.

The case is analogous to what is known as perforating ulcer of the foot. Péraire (*Arch. Gen. de Med.*, 1886) has collected 27 similar cases affecting the hand, under the term "mal perforant palmaire." In 19 of these local nerve injury was the cause, whilst in 8 he assumed a central origin (tabes, myelitis, etc.) One of his cases (from Rabainé) was very similar to that of Helbing. The pathological process in such troubles Helbing considers, in harmony with Pitre's and Vaillard's observations on the lower extremities, to be an interstitial inflammation, documenting itself by a nuclear increase in the neuro-connective tissue, with secondary atrophy of the nerve-elements.—*Bruns' Beiträge z. klin. Chirg.*, 1889, Bd. v., hft. ii.

WILLIAM BROWNING (Brooklyn).

#### TUMORS, ABCESES.

I. **Lupus Treated with Ice.** By KLAUS HANSSEN. A woman suffering from lupus of the lower lip and chin was treated by means of caustics, the galvano-cautery and curetting under chloroform (narco-

sis), without, however, a definite cure following; on the contrary, the disease spread. There was simultaneously such a sensitiveness of the diseased place that the slightest procedure, as for example, dressing with iodoform, would cause exquisite pain, which could not even be prevented by cocaine. The writer, after a third and vain curettement, applied ice, as recommended by Gerhardt, and within three days he obtained not only a reduction of the sensitiveness, but in the course of a few weeks healing of the wound and a disappearance of the nodes. Three months thereafter there was no recurrence — *Médecinsk Revue*, 5. 1889

F. H. PRITCHARD (Boston).

II. A Study of the Locations of 7881 Primary Carcinoma as Illustrating the Probability of a Cancerous Microbe. By EDMUND ANDREWS, M.D. (Chicago). 1. Other things being equal, primary carcinoma is most frequent on those surfaces which by their position would be most accessible to free swimming microbes or spores derived from without the body.

2. The liability to cancer is increased if the epithelial surface is so situated that the spores can remain upon it for at least some hours without being washed away, as on the lower lip; but the liability is greatly diminished if the parts are frequently swept off, as the globe of the eye by winking, or the œsophagus by swallowing food and drink.

3. The liability to cancer is great if the membrane has vast numbers of deep glandular follicles into which the spores can penetrate and lie free from disturbance and have direct access to the more delicate epithelial cells, as at the pyloric end of the stomach and the follicles of the mammary glands.

4. Those portions of the skin which are usually uncovered are oftener attacked than those covered with clothing and constantly brushed by its friction. The skin of the face, for instance, produces more cancer than all the covered portions of the integument combined.

5 As might be expected, there are a few seeming exceptions to these rules, but so few that they do not break their general force.